AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) A method for validating a data stream comprising:

generating a unique validation key associated with the data stream, the unique validation key to map the data stream with a source, wherein the unique validation key is generated based on a combination of a uniform resource locator (URL) and an encryption key;

generating the data stream;

storing the unique validation key;

embedding the unique validation key in the data stream to form a validation key embedded data stream; and

sending the validation key embedded data stream to a destination.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the source is any one of a source of audio information, a source of video information, a source of audio-video information and the URL.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein generating the unique validation key associated with the data stream comprises generating the unique validation key in response to a request for data to be retrieved from the URL.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein generating the unique validation key associated with the data stream, the unique validation key to map the data stream with a source comprises generating the unique validation key and sending the unique validation key to the destination.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the data stream comprises any one of encoded video information, encoded audio information, encoded audio-video information, and encoded information from the URL.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising:

receiving the unique validation key at the destination; and

sampling the validation key embedded data stream in response to detecting the unique validation key in the validation key embedded data stream.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Presented) A method for validating a data stream comprising:

receiving a unique validation key associated with the data stream, the unique validation key to map the data stream with a source, wherein the unique validation key received is generated based on a combination of a uniform resource locator (URL) and an encryption key;

storing the unique validation key;

receiving the data stream;

sampling the data stream to detect the unique validation key embedded in the data stream; and

validating the data stream in response to detecting the unique validation key embedded in the data stream.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the source is any one of a source of audio information, a source of video information, a source of audio-video information and the URL.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising requesting data to be retrieved from the URL.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising generating an error if the unique validation key is not detected in the data stream.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising creating a log file and writing the error to the log file.

44. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a database;

a server coupled with the database, the server having

a processor, and

a memory coupled with the processor, the memory including

a key generation module (KGM) to generate a unique validation key associated with a data stream, the unique validation key to map the data stream with a source, wherein the unique validation key is generated based on a combination of a uniform resource locator (URL) and an encryption key, and

an encoder to embed the unique validation key in the data stream to form a validation key embedded data stream;

the database to store the unique validation key; and

the server to send the validation key embedded data stream to a destination.

45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the source is any one of a source of audio information, a source of video information, a source of audio-video information, and the URL.

46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the encoder encodes any one of audio information, video information, and the URL.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the server sends the unique validation key to the destination in response to receiving a request for data to be retrieved from the URL.

49. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

a key generation module (KGM) to generate a unique validation key associated with a data stream, the unique validation key to map the data stream with a source, wherein the unique validation key is generated based on a combination of a uniform resource locator (URL) and an encryption key;

an encoder coupled with the KGM to embed the unique validation key in the data stream to form a validation key embedded stream;

a client to receive the validation key embedded stream; and

a database coupled with the client to store the unique validation key.

50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the source is any one of a source of audio information, a source of video information, a source of audio-video information and the URL.

51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein the client requests data to be retrieved from the URL.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the client generates an error if the unique validation key is not detected in the data stream.

53. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 52, wherein a server creates a log file and writes the error to the log file.

54-57. (Cancelled)

58. (Previously Presented) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sets of instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

generate a unique validation key associated with a data stream, the unique validation key to map the data stream with a source, wherein the unique validation key is generated based on a combination of a uniform resource locator (URL) and an encryption key;

generate the data stream;

store the unique validation key;

embed the unique validation key in the data stream to form a validation key embedded data stream; and

send the validation key embedded data stream to a destination.

59. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 58, wherein the sets of instructions when executed by the machine, further cause the machine to sample the data stream to detect the unique validation key embedded in the data stream.

60. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 58, wherein the sets of instructions when executed by the machine, further cause the machine to generate the data stream, wherein the source is any of audio information, video information, or an audio-video information.